

The Southeast News

Volume IX, Number 12

October 1961

Convention Board Of Directors Takes Important Actions In Recent Meeting

The Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention, meeting in Atlanta, Ga., on Tuesday, September 19th, voted to distribute the convention's share of the Christian Higher Education Fund receipts now on hand to Southern Union College and the Congregational Christian Foundation at Vanderbilt University.

More than \$4,000 has been sent to the national headquarters of CHEF by the churches of the convention. After the percentage costs of the campaign were deducted the contributions were divided, with 40% going to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, 40% to the Board of Home Missions, and 20% to the Southeast Convention.

With more than \$800 available for distribution, it was voted to send 75% to Southern Union College and 25% to the Congregational Christian Seminary to be used for ministerial scholarships.

Reverend Carolyn P. Welch presided over the sessions during which various items of business were discussed and acted upon.

The members of the board were particularly happy that Dr. Stanley U. North, secretary of the Extension Division of the Board of Home Missions, could be present. Dr. North is a member of the board, representing the Extension Division which contributes to the support of the convention.

After the first of the year Dr. North will assume new responsibilities as secretary of the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches. Of primary concern for him will be the churches of the fellowship which have not yet voted to become a part of the United Church.

Appointed as representatives of the Southeast Convention to meet with representatives of the Convention of the South and the South Indiana Synod to

discuss the formation of a United Church Conference in the area were the following: Miss Dora Brackin, Mr. W. Pressley Ingram, Mr. Odell Yancey, Rev. Carolyn P. Welch, Rev. W. Raymond Berry, Rev. Clyde C. Flannery, Rev. J. Kermit Harris, Dean A. R. Van Cleave.

It is anticipated that this group will meet in the near future. Rev. W. Raymond Berry is the chairman of the group made up of representatives of the three bodies.

Appointed to the Budget Committee to prepare the budget for 1962 were Mr. W. J. Strickland, Decatur, Ga., chairman, Mr. R. L. Farrar, LaGrange, Mr. H. P. Beaird, Lanett, Rev. Clarence W. Baldwin, and Rev. Arnold Slater.

The treasurer, Mr. W. J. Strickland, reported total receipts of \$50,561.80 and total disbursements of \$49,337.58 from January through August.

The Our Christian World Mission receipts for the period amounted to only \$15,955.59 for the period and are seriously lagging behind the pace necessary to meet the goal of almost \$35,000 for the year.

The Board will meet again on Tuesday, January 9, 1962.



Rev. Joseph L. Moulton Fall Meetings Speaker

The Reverend Joseph L. Moulton, Congregational Christian missionary in India for 41 years, has been the guest speaker at the fall association and conference meetings this month.

Mr. Moulton was commissioned by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in 1918. Serving in Western India, near Bombay, he worked as a preacher, social worker and Christian teacher.

In 1953 he was one of a committee of 15 named at a mass meeting representing about a million citizens to administer famine relief and welfare work in his area. He was later re-elected to the committee and contributed to the realization of the National Extension Scheme of the villages under India's Five Year Plan. He was the only Christian on the committee.

Mr. Moulton is a graduate of Bates College and Hartford Theological Seminary. Mrs. Moulton died in 1956. Mr. Moulton has four daughters.

Women's Fellowship Sunday

Remember Women's Fellowship Sunday, November 5th! It is hoped all fellowships will observe this day. The Women's Fellowship Sunday Packet is ready and its content most interesting. You may secure this packet for 50c from:

National Fellowship of Congregational Christian Women
19 South LaSalle Street
Chicago 3, Illinois

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United Church Board For World Ministries

The field is the world. This is what the pioneers of American foreign missions believed. Every day brings fresh proof that they were right. No enterprise of any significance today can operate within a smaller frame of reference than the whole round earth. Least of all can the Christian Church fail to take the world as its field.

Our Scriptures begin with the creation of the world, and end with a heavenly city into which the glory and honor of all nations shall come. In the center of the Bible stands the command of the risen Lord: "You shall be my witness . . . to the end of the earth."

Our acceptance of a world-wide task is symbolized in the United Church Board for World Ministries. Here the great traditions of Christian world mission and Christian world service are joined in an integrated thrust. Through a far-flung and flexible program we reach out to every continent with the words and deeds of the Christian gospel. These ministries touch the whole range of human needs, from food for the body to training for the mind and light for the seeking spirit.

Obviously we cannot hope to heal all the world's ills, but recognizing that God is at work everywhere and in all kinds of ways, we seek to focus our efforts with precision and power. The special responsibilities assigned us by our history, the outbreak of serious and unmet new needs, the open doors of suddenly available opportunity — these and other indicators direct us toward a continuously relevant strategy. Always the increase of faith and love is the goal.

Nor do we work alone. The Board for World Ministries is linked with partner missions in this country and partner churches around the earth in a vast cooperative enterprise to which we contribute our share. Thus we witness in a most practical way to the reconciling, community-making power of the gospel.

Alford Carleton

(The United Church Board for World Ministries continues the work previously carried on by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, the Board of International Missions, the Commission on World Service and the Congregational Christian Service Committee.)

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Beloved Barnesville Minister Passes On

The Reverend William Carl Parker, Congregational Christian minister for almost 50 years, died at the age of 77 on Thursday, September 7th.

Ordained as a minister of the Congregational Christian Churches in 1914 at Doerun, Georgia, Mr. Parker had been in retirement for several years prior to his death.

Included among the churches he served were those at Doerun, Ga., Williams Chapel, Waycross, Ga., Liberty Church, Bowman, Ga., Friendship Church, Baxley, Ga., Macedonia Church, Braselton, Ga., Center Church, Atlanta, Ga., County Line Church, Hampton, Ga., and Fredonia Church, Barnesville, Ga.

At the time of his death, Mr. Parker was a member of Fredonia Church and its pastor emeritus. Mr. and Mrs. Parker made their home in Barnesville.

The funeral services were conducted by Rev. J. Kermit Harris, pastor of Fredonia Congregational Christian Church.

Mr. Parker was well known among the churches of the Georgia-South Carolina Conference and the Southeast Convention. He was a faithful and beloved pastor and a loyal minister in the conference and convention.

Mr. Parker is survived by his wife, Mrs. Lilly Zelma Kiser Parker; by three daughters, Mrs. James J. Thomas, Forest Park, Ga., Mrs. R. L. Bennett Jr., Atlanta, Ga., and Mrs. J. D. Driggers, Jacksonville, Fla.; two sons, A. T. Parker, Albany, Ga., and L. S. Parker, Atlanta, Ga.

Mr. and Mrs. Parker had ten grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Mr. Parker was born in Conyers, Ga., where he first served as a minister on a supply basis.

Work Day For Christ

The annual Pilgrim Fellowship Work Day for Christ will be observed by Congregational Christian young people across the nation on Saturday, October 21 (or some other convenient Saturday this fall).

Money earned through Work Day for Christ goes to the support of Our Christian World Mission at home and abroad.

Our churches are urged to support our young people with work opportunities on this occasion.

United Church Board Homeland Ministries

The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, with its Divisions of Church Extension, Christian Education, Evangelism, Publishing, Health and Welfare, Higher Education, and the American Missionary Association, will be a far greater factor in the life of Protestantism and for the advancement of the Christian mission, if it is true to this mission, than any of the uniting boards has been able to be.

This mission is to proclaim and teach the Good News of God in all places and in such ways that men with differing capacities of hearing may attend to it and understand it.

This mission is to summon and encourage human beings of all ages to realize the full dimensions of their self-hood with its true freedom and responsibility and dignity.

This mission is to extend to all men the privilege of membership in the blessed community of those who know that they are forgiven and who in the freedom and power of that knowledge are able to make the hard decision and run the risks of responsible action in this terrible and magnificent period of history.

In all our thinking about the future we are to remember that it is God's future. Therefore it is always to be kept open to expectancy and surprise and miracle. We are never to set such store by any of our humanly contrived programs and institutions that we are unwilling to abandon them if God shows us a better way. We are never to become so inflexibly committed to our plans that we are not glad to have them blown away by the rushing wind of the Holy Spirit..

Our notable history of pioneering and experimentation will be continued in making the message and work of the church relevant to the needs of our society and to the dynamic life of contemporary America.

Truman B. Douglass

(The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries continues the work previously carried on in general by the Board of Home Missions (CC) and the Board of National Missions (ER). It will have the same relation to the Southeast Convention in its Program of Progress as does the Board of Home Missions at the present time.)

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New Churchmen's Fellowship President Has Served Local Church And Convention



There are those who say that the strength of a church is demonstrated by the caliber of its lay leadership.

If such is true, then the Langdale Congregational Christian Church has reason to rejoice in many ways. One of the "leading lights" in the congregation is soft-spoken Odell Yancey, moderator of the church, and currently a member of its board of deacons and chairman of the pulpit committee.

Yancey is a native of DeKalb County near the community of Fyffe. He attended the rural schools of that county, plus Howard's School, a now defunct prep school located on Lookout Mountain, near Mentne.

The moving of a Langdale family to Sand Mountain was destined to cause a major ripple in young Yancey's life. The Raughton family had a charming daughter, Nellie, who came home from Langdale to visit and took the neighbor boy's heart back with her. Wedding bells rang on Jan. 2, 1930 — in the midst of the depression.

Yancey operated a service station for a while, then returned to the family home on Sand Mountain, then back to the Valley in 1937, when he began working for the West Point Manufacturing Company. After another stint at business for himself, Yancey went to Coyne Electrical School in Chicago in 1941 and returned to work in the electrical department of the Langdale Mill. He advanced rapidly in this work and has been chief electrician since 1945. During this same period he also took special training in electricity at Auburn University.

While their own opportunities for education were limited, the Yanceys have seen that their children have had top flight schooling. Son Glenn, a graduate in business administration from Auburn University, is now working with Boiler Mutual Insurance Company

in Atlanta. He has completed most of his work toward a master's degree, also at Auburn. Glenn is married and has three children.

In New England as a first grade teacher is daughter Joyce (Mrs. Jack Hanrhan). Joyce is a graduate of the University of Alabama and has completed all work except the thesis for a master's degree at Columbia University, plus work at the University of New Hampshire.

The youngest daughter, Patsy, is a senior at the University of Alabama, majoring in sociology. She also is blazing a trail of glory as a campus leader, both scholastically and in service capacities.

Yancey became interested in the Congregational Christian Church because of his wife's affiliation with the church of that denomination at Pisgah. He became a member of the Langdale Church in 1939 — with his wife and son, Glenn. He immediately plunged into the active life of the church and was ordained a deacon in 1946. He has served as a trustee and has taught a Sunday School class for the past two years.

He was elected moderator of the six-state Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches in 1956-1957, the first layman ever to hold that position of leadership. Prior to that office he was a charter member of the East Alabama - West Georgia Laymen's Fellowship and served as president of the group. His church contacts have taken him to national and regional meetings in Wisconsin, Connecticut, Illinois, and North Carolina.

A few weeks ago he was elected president of the Churchmen's Fellowship, the lay organization for men of the Congregational Christian and Evangelical and Reformed Churches of the six-state Southeast Convention area.

Most recently, his tasks as chairman of the pulpit committee have demanded much attention, since the church has been without a full-time minister for a year. This has meant numerous letters, telephone calls, trips and conversations for the entire committee.

All of these duties are carried out with a spirit of humility and dignity which offer inspiration to all who work with him. Odell Yancey makes a valiant effort to fulfill every Christ-

New Church In Mexico Project For Children

Los Mochis is a fast growing town in Mexico. New buildings are going up and unpaved roads are becoming paved boulevards with modern lighting equipment.

Among the new buildings on one of these newly paved streets is a new church. Christians in the United States are helping Christians in Mexico to pay for their new church.

Rev. Oscar C. Nussman, the Latin American Secretary for the United Church Board for World Ministries, was in Mexico when the cornerstone was laid in December 1960. He said:

"I saw the children meeting in the morning for Sunday School classes under the open sky before the roof was on the church. They sat on benches where the pulpit and altar will be. They could begin to see how the church would look when it would be finished. In the afternoon everyone, children and grown-ups, watched as names, records, a Bible and a hymnbook were put in a hole in the cornerstone. Everyone followed as the men carried the heavy stone to the tower wall and it was cemented in place. The stone was inscribed with the date, and was placed as a promise that the Los Mochis church was dedicated to the worship of God and to the service of men."

In the New Testament Jesus is spoken of as "The Cornerstone."

Children and youth who want to help build churches in Mexico can send their money to the United Church Board for World Ministries, 14 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Massachusetts. The Mexico Church Building Aid is an "Authorized Special" and apportionment credit will be given if requested.

This project can be used in connection with the Friendship Press materials on the interdenominational theme, "The Christian Mission in Latin American Countries." The catalog and the books and activity materials may be secured from Pilgrim Press, 14 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Massachusetts, or 19 South LaSalle Street, Chicago 3, Illinois.

Seven slides of the Los Mochis cornerstone laying program may be borrowed from Missions Council, 14 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Massachusetts.

ian's duty, to walk in the steps of the Master.

— Doug Wasson

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Superintendent's Corner

On Tuesday, September 19th, the Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention met at Central Church, Atlanta, Georgia. More than twenty persons from all over the area of the convention attended this meeting.

Sometimes members of our churches ask me questions concerning the Board of Directors. Who are the members? What does the board do?

The Board of Directors is the responsible body that acts for the convention between its meetings and executes the objects and trusts submitted to it by the convention.

The Superintendent and the Minister of Christian Education of the convention report directly to the Board of Directors and their work is supervised by the board.

The standing committees and special committees report to the board and the board is directly responsible for supervising the total program of the convention.

The Board of Directors is directly responsible to the Southeast Convention in annual session or duly called special meetings.

The Board of Directors is composed of the following:

The moderator, moderator-elect, recording secretary, and treasurer of the convention.

Three members-at-large elected for terms of three years by the annual meeting of the convention.

The moderator and one additional representative from each conference and association.

The chairmen of the standing com-

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About Pronouncements In United Church

The Second General Synod of the United Church of Christ, meeting in Oberlin, Ohio, July 5-9, 1959, adopted the following statement concerning "Pronouncements in the United Church of Christ."

It is printed here because from time to time churches and church members raise questions concerning statements and articles that appear in newspapers and magazines having to do with actions taken by the General Synod and/or one of the boards or agencies of our fellowship.

The pronouncement clarifies the questions of authority to speak and for whom the various bodies concerned can and do speak. The statement follows:

"When the church or any of its instrumentalities exercises a prophetic role in society, criticizing its complacency, judging its evils and otherwise attempting to bear a Christian witness concerning issues on which opinions differ, no responsible group of Christians can hope to escape the penalty that the prophets and reformers have always incurred. It can be hoped only that their Christian integrity will not be questioned just because the word they speak may be an unpopular one, and that they themselves are clear as to the nature and limits of the authority their utterances possess. To this end the Executive Council registers the following observations:

"(1) The General Synod, even though numerically and geographically the

mittees of the convention and the presidents of the Women's Fellowship, the Churchmen's Fellowship, and the Pilgrim Fellowship of the Southeast Convention.

The president of Southern Union College is a member *ex officio* without vote.

The Superintendent and the Minister of Christian Education are members *ex officio*.

So long as the Board of Home Missions subsidizes the convention it is entitled to a membership on the Board.

The presidents of the state, association and conference fellowship groups (women's, men's, and young people's) are invited to attend the meetings of the Board but have no vote.

As can be seen, the board is a broadly representative group drawn from the whole of the convention. It is charged with responsible duties and deserves the support of the churches.

most widely representative body of the United Church, can claim authority and representative character for its utterances and enactments only in the measure of their inherent truth and fidelity to the Word of God.

"(2) A church agency speaks only for itself, not for the whole fellowship, except as members of that fellowship concur or their assent is won by the weight of what is spoken.

"(3) An utterance of the General Synod or any of its agencies binds no member of the United Church except as he is convinced and his commitment secured by what he accepts as the rightness of the utterance itself. This is axiomatic for the freedom of the Christian man.

"(4) The General Synod and its instrumentalities, however, are composed of ministers and lay members whose devotion, interest and competence have been recognized in their selection by their fellow members to serve in such bodies; and their utterances and enactments therefore merit, even from those who disagree, respect and serious consideration.

"(5) Every agency is urged, in published announcements of its views, to make clear the authority on which its statement is based in a way to avoid misunderstanding of other bodies in the matter.

"(6) Any agency that takes a position on an issue on which views diverge, may serve to evoke creative exchange of thought and may, and frequently does, serve the Lord of the church by stimulating the mind and pricking the conscience of the church, its individual members and of those outside the church as well.

"(7) Because the church's agencies are composed of ministers and lay members chosen by their fellow members to serve where they do, we should thank God for the creative intelligence they exercise as followers of Christ in the discharge of their responsibilities, and judge their corporate word and deed as testimonies offered by them to us and the world in good faith.

"(8) We must remember always that many, if not most, of the church's finest hours were when it stood for what the multitude denied or decried, and that the continuing symbol of the church's faith and witness is a cross."

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Excellent Report Made Todd Church Activities

This has been a good year for our church. We have made progress in many ways. The church and Sunday School attendance has increased and we have received 15 new members this year — 8 by transfer of membership and 7 on confession of faith, but during the same period of time we lost 3 members by death.

The Churchmen's Fellowship purchased another gas stove for the church kitchen. Recently the church had installed an electronic eye light on a pole in front of the church which lights up the church yard. The Sunday School purchased 50 new Broadman Hymnals to add to the number we already had.

Sunday, September 17th, we had 80 on roll in Sunday School, and there were 83 present in Sunday School, including the visitors. This was the record high for the Sunday School in the history of the church.

At our annual business conference the church voted to increase our giving to Our Christian World Mission.

The following new officers were elected.

Deacons: Howard Strength and J. D. Cantrel; Deaconesses: Mrs. Jerry Strength and Mrs. Eva Cantrel; Trustees: Tom Henderson, Junior Carpenter, and Herbert Morrow; Church Clerk, Mrs. Virginia Wallace; Treasurer, Arnold Wallace (re-elected); Financial Secretary, Mrs. Eva Cantrel; Sunday School Superintendent, Odel Oliver; Choir Leader, Tommie Gray.

Recently the church changed from butane gas to natural gas at the expense of all new pipes.

The Churchmen's Fellowship takes charge of the church services every fifth Sunday and one of them gives the message.

At our last quarterly communion service the young people were in charge and presented a beautiful candle-light communion service which was very impressive.

Our pastor's wife, Mrs. Carrie Lee Nelson, has been very ill and confined to the hospital. The church has been much in prayer for her recovery and she is back home now and slowly recuperating.

We hope to make 1962 an even better year for the church, and it will be if we all continue to work and pray and love.

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New Filmstrips Available For Use By Church Groups

Among the many audio-visuals available to our churches merely for payment of return postage are the three following filmstrips recently acquired. In reserving these, we suggest you give alternate dates so as to avoid disappointment.

WE HAVE THIS FELLOWSHIP — If you have sometimes wondered what meaning the youth program can have for the young people of your church and community, then the sound filmstrip, **WE HAVE THIS FELLOWSHIP** (with 33 1/3 R. P. M. record) is a must for your Youth Fellowship, Youth Committee, or Board of Christian Education. In summary: "While the local youth group holds a planning session out of town, Doug arrives late, hoping to drive Caroline home, and finds the meeting deep in discussion. A conversation with the adult counselor helps him to discover that there is something in the youth program that Doug himself would like to share."

The chief purpose of **WE HAVE THIS FELLOWSHIP** is to point up the importance of the Youth Fellowship in effecting changed lives resulting in Christian commitment. It shows a Youth Fellowship at work, reveals program areas of the youth program, suggests methods of advance planning, and interprets a new approach for those groups using the Commission Plan.

THE BIBLE AND DIEGO THOMSON — A color filmstrip with script for youth and adults introduces us to James Thomson of Scotland, whose congregation enabled him to go to Latin America. There he became an agent for the British and Foreign Bible Society. Although the filmstrip limits itself to Thomson's activities in Latin America, his travels also took him through the United States to Canada, where he obtained an M. D. degree. Thomson's life in Latin America was dedicated to making the Bible known, and this filmstrip seeks to help adults and youth: (1) understand the significance of the Bible as a force for enlightenment in Latin America and other areas; (2) acquaint themselves with the fact of James Thomson's life and the relevance of his witness today; (3) learn something of the broad patterns of Latin American culture and history; (4) develop new appreciation for the value of the Bible in their lives and a

Churches Urged To Support Share Our Surplus Program

Millions of hungry men, women, and children reach out to America for food.

Through the channels of Church World Service and by our gifts to Share Our Surplus we can use our abundance to save lives throughout the world.

Shipping costs are paid by the United States Government and the governments of recipient countries.

\$5.00 given to Share Our Surplus will give a cupful of milk to each of nearly 37,400 hungry children.

\$10.00 will give bread to 9,000 undernourished people.

\$100.00 will give a bowl of cereal to each of more than 300,000 people.

In 1960 American Protestants gave \$787,038.20 to send 287,391.644 pounds of food overseas, each dollar providing about 365 pounds. Of this, \$164,210.86 was given by Congregational Christian churches.

United Church ministers will soon receive promotional material about the Share Our Surplus appeal, including a colorful poster for children to complete. Churches are urged to have a special Thanksgiving offering for Share Our Surplus. For further information address the Missions Council, 287 Park Avenue South, New York 10, New York.

sense of responsibility for sharing it. It is especially recommended for use with the 1961-62 theme, "The Christian Mission in Latin American Countries."

BOOMTIME — All of us are aware that America is changing, and **BOOMTIME**, a colored filmstrip with script for youth and adults, presents a bright and swiftly moving picture of some of these changes. Especially recommended for use in connection with the Home Mission Study theme for 1960-61, "Churches for New Times," **BOOMTIME** begins by showing how our population is increasing and by describing a few of the results of this increase. Mobility among the nation's people is also described, indicating who are involved and where they go and why. The relevance of the Christian Church is noted in these times of extensive social change, raising questions about the responsibility of local congregations in meeting the needs that continue to develop.

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